



Vol. 51 No. 36

September 30, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Families of deployed

Family members of deployed personnel are invited to a briefing at 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Community Center. During the briefing, questions will be answered and child care will be provided. For more information, call the Family Support Center at Ext. 5407.

Coupon expiration

Gas coupons purchased before Sept. 30 expire today. New gas coupons for October are currently available. To redeem expired coupons, bring them to the base exchange customer service desk.

PHA

The 31st Medical Group has initiated an online combined healthcare questionnaire. Airmen will be notified if they are due for a preventive health assessment and must complete the questionnaire at <https://sg.usafe.af.mil/chq/>. Primary care managers will review the questionnaire and medical records and will schedule appointments as needed. People on the personal reliability program are not authorized to take the questionnaire.



Maj. Robert Couse-Baker

Triple Nickel deployed

BALAD AB, Iraq - Capt. Bart Wilbanks, a pilot with the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, and Senior Airman Gaylon Hardman, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, exchange salutes as Capt. Wilbanks prepares to take off on a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. See page 8 for the complete story.

COMACC speaks for Project Connect

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Air Combat Command commander visited Aviano company grade officers Tuesday and spoke about leadership and the future of the Air Force during a Project Connect luncheon at the La Bella Vista Club.

Before visiting Aviano, Gen. Ronald Keys visited Airmen supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and he shared his observations with Aviano's CGOs.

"The Air Force is doing things that are

certainly not traditional. The Army is thin so we're guarding prisons, driving gun trucks and doing interrogations," he said. "As a result some of you are seeing six-month deployments. Most officers are on the standard 120-day rotation, but some of you are going to see longer tours."

General Keys said it's important to make sure everyone is trained before they deploy, make sure there is someone in charge until you get back, know why you're down there

See COMACC Page 8

Grand Opening: The new 31st Medical Group parking lot in Area One officially opens for use Monday.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	323.4	144
	0	0

Information current as of Thursday.



Post office

Aviano members get a sneak peak at what goes on behind the scenes at the post office and what keeps these Airmen so busy.

- Page 10-11



Golf

Birdies, drives, putts and chips ... some Aviano members got a chance to speak golf during a weekend tournament.

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Remembering Brig. Gen. Rosario Scarpolini

In memory of Brig. Gen. Scarpolini —————

Members of the Aviano community,

It is with a heavy heart that Col. Roberto Sardo, Pagliano e Gori Air Base Commander, and I report to you all the loss of a hero, peer and great friend, Brig. Gen. Rosario Scarpolini. "Scarpo" passed away Wednesday evening at Pordenone Hospital due to injuries resulting from a motorcycle accident.

The 31st Fighter Wing and Pagliano e Gori Air Base owe a great debt of gratitude to Scarpo and his family -- Daniela, Davide and Julia. I would ask that each of you keep

Scarpo's memory, and his family's welfare, in your thoughts and prayers. To the Scarpolini family, on behalf of us all, we offer our most heartfelt condolences. We share in this feeling of great loss to Italy, the United States and the world. May God bless our fallen comrade and hero, General Rosario Scarpolini.

Most Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
Col. Roberto Sardo
Aviano Air Base/Pagliano e Gori Air Base



Brig. Gen. Rosario Scarpolini served as the commander of the Italian air force at Aviano from Sept. 11, 2001 to Sept. 15, 2005. General Scarpolini was scheduled to take over the Italian air force operations command in Ferrara, Italy.

CFC kicks off in a bazaar fashion

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Ferrau
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Although the Combined Federal Campaign doesn't officially kick off until Monday, CFC organizers have arranged to accept donations at the Bella Befana Bazaar today through Sunday to encourage disaster relief donations.

Capt. Chris Busque, assistant community/area project officer, said that this window of opportunity for donating early to the CFC at the bazaar is not limited to disaster relief donations but also includes more than 1,700 charities participating in the CFC.

The CFC fundraiser at Aviano continues through Dec. 2 and federal employees can fill out pledge cards at any time.

The CFC-Overseas also offers a unique giving option to its contributors, Family Support and Youth Programs. Aviano donors may donate locally by writing "FSYP" on pledge cards. This money goes directly to Aviano's Family Support and Youth Programs. In 2004, more than half a million dollars was returned to overseas military communities to support these programs and Aviano received more than \$11,000 to use toward family and youth programs.

According to Greg Sasman, CFC-O director, the CFC is the only authorized charitable solicitation of federal employees in the workplace. Mr. Sasman also said during a CFC training session here that charities listed in the brochure

CFC representatives

31st AMDS Tech. Sgt. Georgina Francis, Ext. 5688	31st MDSS Capt. Jacqueline Bowers - Ext. 5236
31st AMXS Capt. Summer Davis, Ext. 8093	31st MSS 1st Lt. Elvis Santana - Ext. 4696
31st CES Chief Master Sgt. Mike Schreck, Ext. 5721	31st OSS Senior Master Sgt. Charles Adams, Ext. 7554
31st CS 2nd Lt. Matthew Sikora, Ext. 7037	31st SFS 1st Lt. Raymond Fortner - Ext. 7811
31st CPTS Airman 1st Class Mike Williams, Ext. 7233	31st SVS Staff Sgt. Donald Flowers, Ext. 4040
31st CONS Tech. Sgt. Richard Woodward, Ext. 7176	510th FS Tech. Sgt. Michelle Cowan, Ext. 8801
31st DS Capt. Sheva Nickravesh, Ext. 5060	555th FS 1st Lt. Steve Fargo - Ext. 7700
31st FW Staff Agencies Master Sgt. Ramon Beltran - Ext. 8239	603rd ACS Staff Sgt. Crystal Lee - Ext. 4011
31st LRS Staff Sgt. Casey Waithe - Ext. 7573	Det 531 AFOSI Jason Hogan - Ext. 4425
31st MOS Staff Sgt. Jason Baziotis - Ext. 8612	ROICC/PMO Adam Leigland - Ext. 5508
31st MXG 1st Lt. Lupe Gutierrez - Ext. 7209	724th AMS Staff Sgt. Melinda Cena - Ext. 7771
31st MXS 1st Lt. Jeff Fogle - Ext. 7770	401st AEW Capt. Iggy Westphal - Ext. 4907
31st MDOS Staff Sgt. Erik Mostacero - Ext. 5781	AFN Senior Master Sgt. Michael Land - Ext. 8295

are nationally or internationally qualified charities. To be accepted, the charity must provide documentation showing it meets strict public accountability standards.

CFC volunteers within each squadron will be handing out brochures and pledge cards to all Aviano federal em-

ployees within the first week of the campaign. "Our goal is to give everyone the opportunity to donate within the first week - however, we anticipate many people will need more time to decide which worthwhile organization they would like their money to go to," Captain Busque said.

Closure: The wood skills shop is temporarily closed. It will re-open in skills center in Area F at a date to be announced.

Speak today, shape tomorrow: climate survey kicks off

By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

As part of a self-improvement initiative, the Air Force is launching the 2005 Climate Survey Saturday.

This is a chance for Aviano Airmen to address issues with their job or organization, said Master Sgt. Stefan Bowsby, 31st Mission Support Squadron. "This is your opportunity to share your feelings with you squadron, wing and Air Force leadership."

The purpose of the survey is to measure the climate of an organization - its norms, expectations and values that impact the overall health of the organization.

Sergeant Bowsby said although many Airmen, thinking their feedback won't be used, may not fill out the survey. However, past survey results prove otherwise.

Actions as a result from past surveys include a new "People First" goal for the 374th Medical Group at Yokota AB, Japan. Leadership set up group-wide morale events each month to foster unit morale.

The 15th Contracting Squadron, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, is another example of how feedback from past surveys has helped to change the way things are done.

Using information from the survey, 15th CONS leadership committed themselves to be more accessible by conducting more walk throughs and one-on-one communication sessions with individual squadron members.

"Let your voice be heard," said Sergeant Bowsby. "If there is something you are happy with or something you wish you could change,

this is the time to let the Air Force know."

The survey takes about 35 minutes to complete and can be taken from any computer with internet access. To take the survey, visit <https://af-climatesurvey.af.mil>.

All active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard, Appropriated Funds civilians and Non-Appropriated Fund civilians may participate in the survey. The survey runs through Nov. 23 and results will be available February 2006.

For questions or concerns, call Master Sgt. Bowsby at Ext. 7672.

Heating things up

Aviano prepares to observe Fire Prevention Week

By Airman 1st Class

Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

This year, Aviano observes National Fire Prevention Week with the theme "Using Candles with Care," Oct. 9 through 15.

"The purpose of Fire Prevention Week is to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention and the importance of following good fire safety practices each day of their lives," said Bryant Nicodemus, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron assistant fire prevention chief. "The candle theme reflects the fire service's concern about the growing number of fires as a result of candle use."

The National Fire Protection Association's statistics show candle fires are one of the few types of home fires that have increased drastically over the past decade.

Candle fires are more common around holidays because people place decora-

tions near them, explained Mr. Nicodemus. According to the NFPA, there are twice as many home candle fires in December than any other month. Also, NFPA statistics show four out of ten times the candles were left unattended and four out of ten home candle fires started in the bedroom.

Practicing safe fire habits shouldn't be just another holiday tradition.

"We want the Aviano community to be safe whether at work, at home or at play," said Mr. Nicodemus. "We've had a few fire incidents that could have been prevented if sound fire safety measures were followed."

Proper fire safety habits begin with early education.

"As parents, we should be teaching our children the emergency phone number, how to stay low and crawl if there is smoke, check a closed door before opening," said Mr. Nicodemus. "Fire safety isn't just for children, it's not just for adults - it's for everyone, everyday."



To prevent a meltdown during your holiday party, keep lit candles at least one foot away from decorations and always use sturdy candle holders that won't tip or burn.

A moment in history

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire of Oct. 9, 1871. This fire killed 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures in less than 27 hours.

While the origin of the fire has never been determined, there has been speculation over how it started. Legend has it Mrs. O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary's barn on fire and the rest "is history."

The City of Chicago quickly rebuilt and within a couple years, residents began celebrating their successful restoration by memorializing the anniversary of the fire with festivities.

Intending to observe the fire's anniversary with a more serious commemoration, the Fire Marshals Association of North America decided the 40th anniversary should be observed in a way that would

keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. Thus, the first National Fire Prevention Day was observed Oct. 9, 1911.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation.

When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 through 10, 1925, he noted in the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire. Calling the loss startling, President Coolidge's proclamation stated, "This waste results from conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror, for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented..."

The Aviano Fire and Emergency Services Flight makes National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation of all who reside, work and visit to reduce the risk of fire and the toll it takes on our community.

Fire Prevention Week activities

Oct. 4-6 -- Fire and Emergency Services will be at Aviano Elementary School with their "Fire Safety" trailer, fire truck and Sparky.

Oct. 7 -- FES will be at the main base exchange. Sparky and the Fire Fighter Association will host a bake sale.

Oct. 12 -- Firefighters will be at the library, reading to children at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. After the readings, Sparky will accompany the children outside to tour the fire truck. This will be the last day to turn in color contest entries. Entry sheets can be picked up at the commissary or base exchange Monday through Oct. 12. Categories are: ages 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. Judging will be by an independent panel Oct. 13.

Oct. 13 -- FES will be at the base exchange. Sparky and the Fire Fighter Association will be host a bake sale.

Oct. 14 -- Fire Prevention Week barbecue and open house at the fire house located in Area F, Bldg. 1023. Color contest prizes will be presented by the base fire marshal, fire chief and Sparky. There will also be fire trucks and a bouncy castle. The barbecue begins at 5 p.m.

COMACC, from page 1



Senior Airman Colleen Wronek Gen. Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, tours Aviano's new skills development center. In addition to speaking for Project Connect, the general visited various locations around base.

and not to get set out to do something you aren't trained to do.

"One paralegal down there was doing legal work when someone handed her an M-16 and said 'Get in the helicopter,'" he said. "The next thing she knew she was making sure interrogations were done legally. She wrote back to her boss and said she didn't know if she was supposed to be doing that."

General Keys also said the Air Force is too good for its own good. "An Army colonel said to me that he'll take our gun truck escorts over any other any day," he said. "But we must be careful and do what we're trained to do. I don't want to send a letter that says 'Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith, We regretfully inform you that your son or daughter'... because we sent them in harm's way."

General Keys emphasized the stressors that people face in the Air Force and being prepared to change missions.

"Downrange, people have the best equipment and the best leadership," he said. "People are in Afghanistan, Iraq, and partaking in other missions, which puts pressure on units back home. We have people who were set to deploy get pulled off the AEF rotation when Katrina hit, which caused other people to deploy in their place."

General Keys also encour-

aged everyone to look out for each other.

"With kids starting school, the holidays and returning from a deployment, people tend to be stressed," he said. "We need to take care of each other and be a wingman. Sometimes it takes asking, 'Are you okay?'"

"It can make a big difference."

The general also encouraged officers to step up and enforce personal risk management.

"We do dangerous things and we know how much risk we've accepted professionally, but it's easy to lose focus personally. There is a lot of misplaced enthusiasm," the general said. "Telling the boss something seemed like a good idea at the time won't fly. If you see somebody doing something you know isn't right, tell them to wait a minute, stop or knock it off."

General Keys wrapped up his Project Connect session by discussing officer manning.

"We have 4,000 too many good officers... One thing we're doing is accelerating some of the year groups and moving them so you're considered for a promotion earlier. That's good news for some, but the bad news is some of you will be slower to promote," he said.

The bottom line, the general stressed is that we keep those people who want to stay in the Air Force.

Stamping: Learn techniques from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 12. For more information, call Ext 5022.

Aviano's 'Triple Nickel' enters fight

By Maj. Robert Couse-Baker
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BALAD AB, Iraq -- As the green logos of the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron replace the purple ones of the 510th EFS, Balad AB has neither missed a beat providing close air support to coalition forces combating the anti-Iraqi insurgency nor had any let up in enthusiasm for the mission.

"You'll not find a single person in the squadron who is not fired up to be here," said Capt. Jason Charrier, F-16 pilot with the 555th EFS. "This is what we worked for; this is our

chance to shine."

In addition to many highly experienced fighter pilots, most of the same maintenance and operation support personnel who work with the "Triple Nickel" F-16s back home at Aviano have also deployed here.

"Virtually the entire squadron is here and working together," he said. "This deployment is running like a well-oiled machine."

Captain Charrier also credits good continuity from their predecessors here, the 510th EFS, which had deployed here from Aviano on the previous rotation.

The challenge of operating in a combat environment has further in-

creased the motivation of the troops, said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Laser, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit superintendent.

"Being here in Iraq helps make it feel a bit more real... why we do what we do," he said.

"We were pleasantly surprised with the food and living conditions," said Maj. Aaron Lade, 555th EFS C-Flight commander. "The support has been super; we have everything we need."

Best of all, Major Lade said, was the quality of the work.

"We can't complain about the action; we're executing what we've trained for," he said.

Going postal



With packages overflowing and overworked Airmen, Aviano's Post Office has gone crazy ...

**By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory**
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Three turns to the left, two to the right and back once more to the left. Click, the lock pops open to reveal the little yellow slip you've been waiting for. Filled with anticipation, you hurry to your car, drive over to the postal annex, park and rush inside only to see a line of people almost out the door. EERG! So you get in line thinking, "This'll just take a few minutes" ... Twenty minutes later the line hasn't moved and your lunch break is almost over. "What's the holdup," you wonder? You see people leaving with packages in their arms. Then you realize it's the same person, leaving again and again. He must have 30 or 40 yellow slips in his hand! Defeated, you turn away to try again another day.

"In an average month, the Aviano Post Office receives and processes approximately 55,000 packages," said Master Sgt. Ronald Dixon, 31st Communications Squadron, post office superintendent. "Between October and January that number increases to about 110,000 packages and it's starting to pick up now."

Patrons may have experienced longer wait times for their packages because the post office is currently undermanned.

"Right now we are at a 58 percent manning level; however, we'll be getting to a much healthier position in the next 30 days as people return from deployments and PCS in," explained Sergeant Dixon. "One of our biggest issues is we deploy personnel in every [Air Expeditionary Force] bucket."

The post office is asking customers to be patient until they are fully manned and caught up and to pick up packages as soon as possible.

"Due to federal law and U.S. Postal Service, Department of Defense

and Department of State mandated delivery times for priority first class and priority mail, we have to provide manning to the work centers that receive, dispatch, sort, pitch and deliver mail before we can get our customer service areas back up to normal manning," Sergeant Dixon explained.

Typically, daily post office operations are supplemented by volunteers.

"My wife works at the post office, so I volunteer to help her out – they are always busy and I want her to be able to come home sometimes," said Phil Walker.

Some volunteers, like Mr. Walker, consider their hours at the post office almost a full-time job. "Typically, I put in about 40 hours per week breaking down mail shipments," he said.

"All together there are about 20 post office workers here including Air National Guard, Reserves, active duty and volunteers," said Sergeant Dixon.

Without volunteers, magazine and bulk mail would run a day behind and the post office wouldn't be able to maintain customer service hours, provide registered mail pick up and delivery or make official mail runs to units.

"Essentially, without total force support, we couldn't maintain all services for the 31st Fighter Wing's postal and written communication services," said Sergeant Dixon.

In order to prevent under-manning problems from re-occurring, post office management is planning ahead for the busy season.

"We have initiated a program with the temporary lodging facility, Aviano's Red Cross and the Air Force Aid Society to market volunteer opportunities to newcomers," said the post office superintendent. "We have also requested 10 paying overhire positions for seasonal help from October through January."

For more information or to volunteer, call the post office at Ext. 4086.

Did You Know?

Throughout its history, the U.S. Postal Service has tried some incredible and sometimes crazy ways to deliver the mail.

- **Missile Mail** - On June 8, 1959, the Navy submarine U.S.S. Barbero fired a guided missile carrying 3,000 letters at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Mayport, Fla.

- **Mule Mail** - The sign on the only cafe in Supai, Ariz., reads "No Fries 'Til Mail." Life in this community literally survives on its mail. The most remote mail route in the country, the Supai route is the last mule train delivery in the United States. The route brings everything from food to furniture to the Havasupai Indian Reservation, consisting of about 500 tribal members who live below the rim of the Grand Canyon. The only way in and out of Supai is an eight-mile trek by foot, mule or horseback. The mule train makes the six- to eight-hour trip five days a week, even through wind and rain. During a typical week, 16 to 20 tons of mail are delivered.



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti



Airman 1st Class Desiree Hayden



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Airman 1st Class Chris Rowlen, 31st Communications Squadron, sorts mail into mail boxes. The flightline post office is responsible for delivering up to 2,600 pieces of mail a day and the post office annex handles up to 1,000 packages.

Top: Airman 1st Class Jacqueline Santiago and Senior Airman Erick Cruz, 31st Communications Squadron, send out an SOS message to the base. The postal annex has been overwhelmed with packages and mail from people returning from deployments.

Bottom: Two post office workers sort through the massive amounts of mail accumulating at the annex.

Got talent?

Aviano Airmen can apply for the Tops in Blue 2006 tour. The deadline to apply is Wednesday. For applications and information visit www.topsinblue.com or download instructions and an application at <https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/> or call DSN 487-6566 or (210) 652-6566.

Bella Befana Bazaar

The annual Bella Befana Bazaar is visiting Aviano Friday through Sunday, courtesy of the Aviano Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club. Aviano shoppers will have access to merchandise from more than 16 countries and 100 vendors, all tax free. The bazaar is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in Hangar One, Two and Three and the wash-rack. The bazaar is open to all NATO ID card and U.S. passport holders. The AOCSC is also looking for bazaar volunteers. Volunteers are eligible for door prizes. If interested in volunteering, call Jennifer Fogle at 0434-96-1349 or 349-508-6733,

or e-mail her at befanavolunteer2005@yahoo.com.

CDC

The Child Development Center has an opening for a child 1 to 2 years old from Saturday through Nov. 30. For more information, call 349-694-5424 or e-mail daureen.martin@aviano.af.mil.

Celebrating heritage

Hispanic American Heritage Month runs through Oct. 15 and events include a fun run/walk/health fair 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Dragon Fitness Center, a recipe book and banquet ticket sale 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 10 at the base exchange, crafts at the Community Center 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 12 and a banquet at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at La Bella Vista. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sonora Vasquez at Ext. 7982 or Staff Sgt. Adriana Obregon at Ext. 5018.

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University provides reimbursement upon successful

completion of the oral/practical, general, airframe and powerplant exams. The university is also accepting registration for the powerplant turbine course starting Oct. 10. Classes are condensed and students can register until the first day of class. For more information, call Ext. 5140.

Holiday closure

The 31st Medical Group will be closed Oct. 10 in observance of Columbus Day. There are extended care hours at the family practice clinic in Area One 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 8 and Oct. 9. To obtain an appointment during extended care hours, call Ext. 5000. For emergencies, go to Pordenone or the closest Emergency Room. For life-threatening emergencies, call 118.

Back to school

The University of Maryland University College Term Two registration begins Oct. 11 for active duty members and Oct. 13 for civilians and spouses. For more information, call Ext. 5365, visit www.ed.umuc.edu or stop by the UMUC office in Area One to pick up a copy of the schedule.

Communication tips

Family Advocacy hosts a four-part couples communication class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 11 and continuing Oct. 18, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. The classes take place at Family Advocacy, Bldg. 108, in the second floor conference room. Call Ext. 5667 to reserve a place or for more information.

PT guidance

The Air Force has issued guidance for the wear of headphones while in the official physical training uniform. Airmen dressed in the PT uniform are authorized to wear headphones while participating in personal fitness and other off-duty activities. Headphones aren't authorized while in formation, during organized unit physical training sessions or in performance of official duties. For

more information, Aviano Airmen can call their commander's support staff.

La Leche League

Due to Columbus Day, the La Leche League of Aviano meets 10 a.m. Oct. 17 in the Chapel Education Center, Bldg 168 in Area One. The group welcomes pregnant and breastfeeding women. The informal topic of discussion will be "Why breastfeed your baby?" Babies and children are always welcome at meetings. LLL provides information and support on all aspects of breastfeeding. For questions call 348 242 5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Cub scouts

Aviano Cub Scouts is registering new scouts within their respective dens. Boys from first through fifth grade are assigned to dens based on age and grade in school. Cub Scouts of America prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices. Several fall activities have already been planned in addition to weekly meetings held by each den. For more information, e-mail Rich Tangen at Richard.Tangen@aviano.af.mil.

School meeting

A school advisory board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday at the community center in Area One. The meeting is open to the public, including those people who don't have children enrolled at Aviano's schools. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Warren at Ext. 7099.

Toastmasters

The Aviano Toastmasters Club 9289 now meets noon to 1 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Thursday in Area F, Bldg 1360, 31st Operations Group conference room. For additional information, call Senior Master Sgt. Joyce Parker at Ext. 7673 or Senior Airman Danny Torrance at Ext. 7932.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "Sky High" Rated PG - When you're the son of the world's most legendary superheroes, there is only one school for you - Sky High, an elite school that molds today's power-gifted students into tomorrow's superheroes. Starring: Kurt Russell, Michael Angarano

Today, 8 p.m. - "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo" Rated R - Deuce Bigalow is back to his unlikely pleasure-for-pay profession. Starring: Rob Schneider, Eddie Griffin

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Sky High" Rated PG

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Wedding Crashers" Rated R - A pair of divorce mediators spend their weekends crashing weddings in a search for Ms. Right...for a night until one of them falls for an engaged woman. Starring: Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Hustle and Flow" Rated R - A streetwise youth with a gift gets a chance to break into the music business. Starring: Terrence Dashon Howard, DJ Qualls

Tuesday, 7 p.m. - "Wedding Crashers" Rated R

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - "Shrek 2" Rated PG - After their honeymoon, Shrek and Fiona visit her parents. When a Fairy God Mother discovers Fiona and Shrek are married she reminds the king about a deal they made that Fiona would marry her son. Animated

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Wedding Crashers" Rated R

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Hustle and Flow" Rated R

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Local area events

Sunday - Aviano is hosting its monthly antique market Sunday.

Saturday through Monday - Udine is hosting "Friuli D.O.C." a large festival to celebrate the harvest and pressing of the grapes.

Saturday and Sunday - Gorizia is hosting the taste of Mitteleuropa. Visit www.turismo.fvg.it for more information.

Now through October - A butterfly exhibit in Bordano. Visit www.cosetur.com for more information.

Oct. 9 - The 37th Annual Sailing Race La Barcolana in the Gulf of Trieste.

Taking leave

Aviano Airmen are reminded to check their unit's leave policies before requesting leave. Some require leave to be taken if the person is flying to their destination, while others require leave for locations beyond a six-hour drive. Orderly rooms will have the specific information.

Baby, let's cruise

Information, Tickets and Tours and SATO invites Aviano members to a cruise event 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 19 in the base exchange mall. This event gives travelers the opportunity to learn more about one of the world's most popular vacations: cruising. Door prizes, exclusive offers and special discounts are available. Learn about the different cruise lines, ships, destinations, departure ports, value, cruise styles, dining and activities.

Birthplace of the Renaissance Florence offers art, beauty

**Story and photo by
Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

A beautiful city of history, architecture, art and shopping, Florence, or as the locals call it, Firenze, offers something for everyone.

The city is the birthplace of the Renaissance and is home to the famous poet Dante and Michelangelo's David. It was built by the Romans, who made the city center easy to navigate on foot.

Florence is part of two eras in history that architecturally mesh together very well. Walking down the city's narrow streets, medieval architecture looms with a sense of cold gloom that engulfed the dark ages. Walking down the wider streets, ornate Renaissance architecture gives a sense of open cheerfulness.

One of the most beautiful buildings in Florence that visitors must see is the Duomo of Santa Maria Del Fiore. This gigantic Roman-Gothic designed cathedral is breathtaking and can only be described as otherworldly.

Across from the Duomo, encased in white and green marble, is an octagonal building known as the Battistero di San Giovanni. It is one of Florence's older buildings. The battistero is most famous for its three sets of bronze doors. The east door is known as the "Gates of Paradise" and is carved with biblical subjects and scenes.

Florence is famous for artistic masterpieces. One place to see famous works of art is at the Galleria Dell'Accademia. This museum is home to famous paintings created by various medieval artists. It's also home to Michelangelo's original David and other unfinished Michelangelo statues. Unfortunately, photography is prohibited in the museum.



A view of Florence from the Piazzale Michelangelo.

In front of the Palazzo Vecchio in the Piazza Della Signoria is copy of David and other famous statues, such as Ammanati's Neptune and Cellini's bronze Perseus. The piazza is a free sculpture gallery where visitors can take photos.

For priceless Renaissance paintings and sculptures, visit the Galleria degli Uffizi. The gallery is home to some of Leonardo Davinci and Raphaels works.

People who need a break from sightseeing can visit the many shops and markets Florence has to offer. Several shops that house nice, but expensive items line the Ponte Vecchio - one of Florence's oldest bridges that crosses the Arno river. Designer labels are also everywhere in Florence.

A more affordable place is the Piazza San Lorenzo. This market sells leather, souvenirs and other assorted goods.

Perhaps Florence is so captivating because of the many beautiful works of art or the wonderful food and wine. Either way, it's a city certain to capture your heart.

Travel Web site: Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe.



Courtesy photo

Verona was Shakespeare's inspiration for Romeo and Juliet. In addition to Juliet's house, the city is also home to Juliet's tomb.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Oktoberfest Express
- Saturday - San Marino
- Oct. 7- 10 - Prague
- Oct. 8- Wine tasting in the Friuli region
- Oct. 8 - Croatia by boat
- Oct 8 - Castle Brando spa

- Oct. 15 - Guided Florence
- Oct. 15 - Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026, for more information.

Not just putting around

Championship results

A Flight

First place (gross) - Larry Garren
Second place (gross) - Steve Mariz
First place (net) - Jerry Houge
Second place (net) - Allen Martinez

B Flight

First place (gross) - Claudio Pitton
Second place (gross) - Mike Munitz
First place (net) - Fred Lutz
Second place (net) - Ross Martinka

C Flight

First place (gross) - Andrea Birkland
Second place (gross) - Mike Dunblazier
First place (net) - Allan Prunty
Second place (net) - Jared Bonville

Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth



Allen Martinez, 31st Maintenance Squadron, lines up a putt during the first day of the Aviano Golf Course Championship Sept. 24.



Chaplain Jerry Houge, 31 Fighter Wing hits a drive during the weekend championship. The next golf tournament is Oct. 11. Call Ext. 7386 for more information.

Fly Bys

Referees needed

The Aviano Officials Association is looking for high school football and volleyball officials for the upcoming season. Interested participants may call Joe Russo at 348-252-4885 or Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith at Ext. 4978.

Football frenzy

La Bella Vista invites football fans to watch Monday Night Football, enjoy snacks and win prizes 5 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays. Call Ext. 4303 for more information.

Technicians needed

Outdoor recreation seeks ski and snowboard technicians and a lawn mower / small engine person. To apply or for more information, call Ext. 8623.

Outdoor Recreation

- A deep sea fishing trip to Caorle is Sunday. The trip departs from outdoor recreation 6 a.m. Cost is €50 and includes transportation, lunch on board, tackle and bait.

- A local area orientation hiking trip is scheduled for Oct. 22. The cost is \$10 and the deadline to sign up is Oct. 17. For more information on any of these trips, or to sign up, call Ext. 8623.

Get Golfing

- The Alpine Golf Course hosts a Scotch Doubles Nine-hole tournament Oct. 11. The entry fee is \$10 and includes lunch. Prizes are awarded to the first players who sign up.

- A moonlight golf outing is 6 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 29. The \$18 entry fee includes a steak dinner and use of glow in the dark golf balls. For more information on these events, or to sign up, call Ext. 7386.

Intramural soccer

Intramural soccer play-offs begin 5:30 p.m. Monday. Cheer for your squadron team at the soccer field in Area F.

Honoring shirts for all they do

By Maj. Laurie Conrad
31st Maintenance Operation Squadron

I won the lottery!! Not really, but maybe I can keep you reading. You see, I've been struggling with a topic for this article for quite some time now. Whenever honored with rare moments to impart wisdom or philosophy on a large group of people I take it seriously and want to ensure the information is worthwhile.

There are so many things up for discussion. For instance, we can never emphasize enough the basics of safety, personal responsibility, readiness, family readiness ... you get the idea. People much more versed than I will ever be have covered those topics in depth.

It took a long drive to Germany and the first sergeants panel at a squadron commander's seminar for the light to come on for a topic. It is time to publicly thank those first sergeants whose day-to-day actions are so appreciated and, for the most part I think, taken for granted.

Three things come to mind when I think of first sergeants: First sergeants are humble, first sergeants are patient and first sergeants are selfless.

The three shirts on the panel were very diverse in looks, mannerisms and points of view, but all were humble. Everyone in the room thanked them for the time, effort and energy they expend towards the young Airmen, and thanked them for their guidance and counsel to commanders.

All three blushed, even the very big guy. They honestly did not want thanks; they want to help us be better commanders and they want to positively affect Airmen who are still savable.

"Don't thank us ma'am, it's what we do and we love it."

My first sergeant, Master Sgt. Eric Milliner, demonstrates patience. Due to a mass exodus of senior personnel from my squadron, Sergeant Milliner provided me with critical continuity and kept me out of trouble from day one. With a smile on his face, Sergeant Milliner acts as a sounding board, he is the voice of reason and calm, he can already read my mind and rally the troops without prompting, and above all, he is patient. Thank you Eric, I am a truly blessed commander.

First sergeants are selfless. They are busy people, every day, all day yet they find time for others. The shirts on the panel still made time to talk to a bunch of new commanders.

These three shirts have no stake in our personal success. Their only wish is that we take care of the troops and make sound decisions, because ultimately that leads to our success and ensures the Air Force is a better place.

One shirt called the Air Force the family that some troops never had and he said it was up to us, first sergeants and commanders, to provide the tough love, discipline and companionship that many of our younger troops have never experienced.

One shirt on the panel gave some personal advice that really applies to all of us. He suggested that everyone take a yellow sticky pad and during the day write down a little note every time you think of your significant other. Then, put those stickies in a jar or in a card. Next time you are deployed or working late, your loved one can open that jar or card, select a sticky and know that although you may not be able to communicate at that moment, you are thinking of them.

Finally, he told a story that should make those of you with children stop dead in your tracks. His teenage son came to him one night asking if he would go to the store and get a 12 pack of soda. Apparently the boy had forgotten about a school event and obviously waited until the last minute to tell his dad.

The first sergeant said he yelled, waving his hands, talking about waiting until the last minute, the boy needed to be more responsible, etc, etc. The boy stood there with watery eyes, and when his dad was done said, "Dad, can I ask you a question? Dad, why is it when your troops ask you for something you'll drop everything, run around the base and do anything to make it happen, but when I ask you for something I get yelled at?"

The boy re-emphasized to the first sergeant that the Air Force family is important ... but so is your "at home" family ... don't sacrifice one for the other.

So, to all you first sergeants out there, past, present and future ... but especially present, a huge thank you from a commander who recognizes all that you do with the utmost of humility, patience and selflessness.

Kudos: Recognizing Those Who Serve

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all spouses of deployed members. As a deployed member, I've felt the effort spouses provide so we can have as much comfort as possible. It is greatly appreciated. I would like to extend a special "kudo" to my very loving and caring wife, Elise, for always being there for me. -Tech Sgt. James Brown, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Det. 2.

The following individuals won the USAFE X-BOX Tournament Sept. 17 at the Community Center: David Hart, David Stewart, Airman 1st Class Paul Mullins, 31st Maintenance Squadron, and Airman Joshua Smith, 31st MXS.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.